

December 31,2012

Dear Ms. Dortch and those on the Board of Appeals,

I am writing on behalf of the Wilson Memorial Library, of Keota, Iowa, a town of approximately 1000 residents in southeastern Iowa. I have been employed by the City of Keota for seven years. The first 4 years I worked part time at City Hall and part time at the library. Our previous library director resigned a little over a year ago while awaiting the birth of their second child. I became director in March of 2011, and after working with Rachel Klein, our previous director, for 7 years, I had a pretty good handle on most of the details involving library directing.

Last year I did successfully file forms 470 and 471 in window and as a result we did receive USAC funding for this past fiscal year. During this past year I have learned much about what to do, or not to do, as director. I have had many ideas for new programs to implement and have been in the process of moving in a forward direction, keeping special attention to programs for the public that are enjoyable and informative.

Also during this time, my husband and I have been dealing with the absolutely horrendous situation our oldest daughter has been, and continues to be in. She has dealt with depression starting in her teen years and in her senior year gave birth to a son, whom we have since taken guardianship of. She was of course a very young parent and paid little attention to his needs. In time she became anorexic, bulimic and an alcoholic. She has been in and out of treatment facilities so many times that I literally can't remember the number. Upon release from these institutions she immediately proceeds to get alcohol by begging, borrowing or stealing, usually vodka. She has been near death several times, has been intubated due to drinking rubbing alcohol, and has been essentially homeless for over three years. She cannot hold down a job, refuses to abide by the rules of our house, has destroyed the relationship she did have

with her son and siblings, has fallen down stairs and broken bones, had third degree burns from falling while carrying boiling water, etc. This is heartbreaking as a parent and while she has been in court ordered treatment at least twice in the last six months, she is the only one who can create change. She has been suicidal, living in and out of a car and in near constant danger. We have been to the Iowa City court house to fill out an affidavit for involuntary hospitalization for mental health care, but she cannot be located.

This has been much more difficult here at the library this past year than at any other time. Even last year, my first year as director was easier than this. I need to learn to be able to deal with this situation and literally let her go for her to have a chance at recovery, while at the same time keeping things moving smoothly at work. As a result of all that has been going on unfortunately I missed the filing deadline for form 470, which set me on a downhill slide with E Rate this year. I have done everything that I can do and now am appealing to you for a deadline waiver. If my request is denied, so be it. I really can't blame anyone but myself and that is just the truth.

I apologize for the length of this rambling letter, but needed to give background in order for you to understand. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Denise Preston, director